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(71) Applicant: Senju Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Osaka-shi, Osaka 541 (JP)

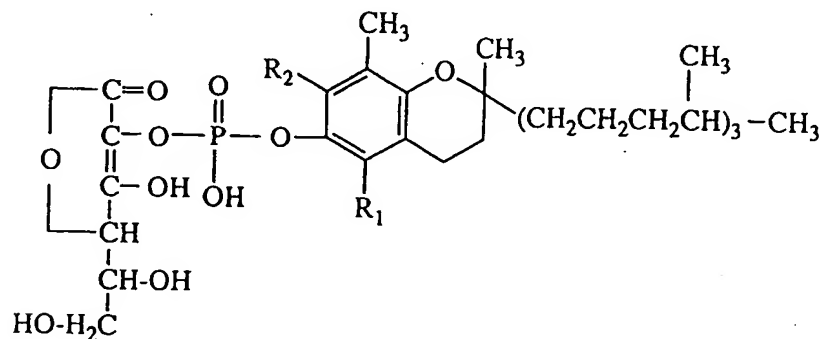
(72) Inventors:
• Ogata, Kazumi
Toyonaka-shi, Osaka 565 (JP)
• Sakaue, Takahiro
Hyogo 664 (JP)

• Ogino, Shinya
Itami-shi, Hiogo 664 (JP)
• Matsuura, Sachiko
Osaka-shi, Osaka 545 (JP)
• Nagao, Rie
Neyagawa-shi, Osaka 572 (JP)

(74) Representative: von Kreisler, Alek, Dipl.-Chem. et
al
Patentanwälte,
von Kreisler-Selting-Werner,
Bahnhofsvorplatz 1 (Delchmannhaus)
D-50667 Köln (DE)

(54) Use of a ascorbyl tocopheryl phosphate for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of pancreatitis

(57) This invention provides a therapeutic composition for pancreatitis which comprises a phosphoric diester compound of the following formula or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof



wherein R₁ and R₂ are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or methyl.

The pharmaceutical composition of this invention can be used with advantage in the prevention and treatment of pancreatitis.

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Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention relates to a useful therapeutic composition for pancreatitis. More particularly, this invention relates to a useful therapeutic composition for pancreatitis which comprises an ascorbyl tocopheryl phosphate compound or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 In man, there exists not only pancreatic phospholipase A₂ (PLA₂) (type I) but also membrane-bound and secretion type phospholipase A₂ (type II). These types of phospholipase A₂ are widely divergent in biochemical properties.

Among them, pancreatic phospholipase A₂ is one of the digestive enzymes synthesized in the pancreas and secreted into pancreatic juice. Pancreatic phospholipase A₂ is activated by trypsin, a proteolytic enzyme, in the duodenum and decomposes the phospholipids blended with the bile and solubilized. While pancreatic phospholipase A₂ readily decomposes the cell membrane comprised of phospholipids, the lyso compounds produced in this process show high cytotoxicity. Therefore, pancreatic phospholipase A₂ has been a focus of attention in connection with the onset and exacerbation of acute pancreatitis. It is generally postulated that since, in man, there is no inhibitor of pancreatic phospholipase A₂ activity, pancreatic phospholipase A₂ finds its way into the circulation at the acme of pancreatitis to induce severe cytopathic effects. As a drug having such a pharmacologic action, citicholine is known.

Meanwhile, type II phospholipase A₂ (non-pancreatic type) which is detected at high levels in the exudates at inflammation sites is generally considered to be deeply involved in inflammation. The mechanism of its inflammatory actions is generally visualized as the type II phospholipase A₂-catalyzed production of arachidonic acid from the phospholipids of, for example, the cell membrane which is followed by both the cyclooxygenase pathway leading to prostaglandines (PG) and the lipoxygenase pathway leading to leukotrienes (LT). Steroidal drugs are known to inhibit type II phospholipase A₂ and, hence act as antiinflammatory agents blocking both of the pathways.

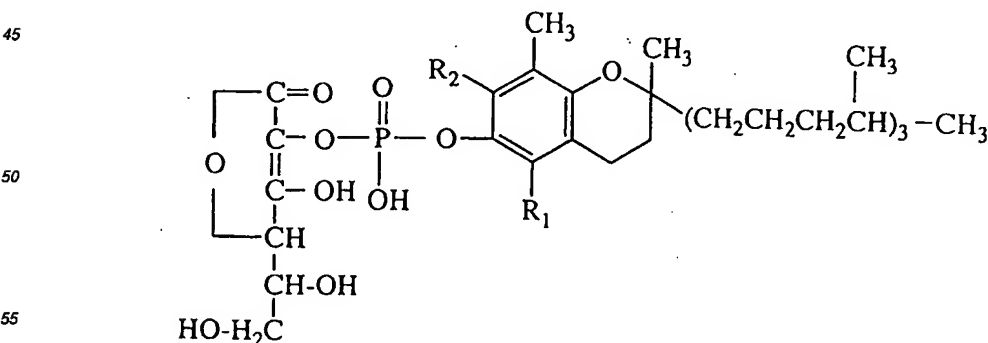
Thus, type I and type II phospholipase A₂ are much different in biochemical properties but in the field of medicine there is not known a drug which sufficiently inhibits both of type I phospholipase A₂ which is associated with pancreatitis and type II phospholipase A₂ (non-pancreatic type) which is involved in inflammation.

30 Paying attention to inhibition of pancreatic phospholipase A₂, the inventors of this invention did intensive research. As a result, they discovered that an ascorbyl tocopheryl phosphate compound which is already known as an antiinflammatory agent having phospholipase A₂ inhibitory activity (U.S. Patent No. 4,914,197) is of value as a therapeutic drug for pancreatitis by virtue of its pancreatic phospholipase A₂ inhibitory action. This invention has been developed on the basis of the above finding.

35 This invention provides a very useful therapeutic composition for pancreatitis which comprises a phosphoric diester compound or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

40 This invention, therefore, is directed to a therapeutic composition for pancreatitis which comprises a phosphoric diester compound of the following formula or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof (hereinafter referred to as the compound)



wherein R₁ and R₂ are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or methyl.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The compound for use in the therapeutic composition for pancreatitis according to this invention can be synthesized by the processes described in U.S. Patent No. 4,564,686 or 4,914,197, among others.

The compound for use in the therapeutic composition for pancreatitis according to this invention has found application not only as an antiinflammatory drug, referred to above, but also as an anticoncataract drug, a prophylactic and therapeutic drug for climacteric disturbance, a skin-beautifying cosmetic (U.S. Patent No. 4,564,686), an antiulcer drug (U.S. Patent No. 4,888,329) and a prophylactic and therapeutic drug for ischemic disorder in organs (U.S. Patent No. 4,948,786), among a diversity of uses.

However, even the above-mentioned U.S. Patent No. 4,914,197 describing the usefulness of this compound as an antiinflammatory drug mentions simply that the compound has activity to inhibit phospholipase A₂ of the rat gastric mucosal origin and contains no information at all about its pancreatic phospholipase A₂ inhibitory activity which is a useful pharmacologic action for the treatment of pancreatitis. Therefore, it could never be easily conceived of that the very compound might be of use as a therapeutic drug for pancreatitis.

The compound for use in the therapeutic composition for pancreatitis according to this invention may be a free compound or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof. The pharmacologically acceptable salt typically includes salts with alkali metals such as sodium, potassium, etc. and salts with alkaline earth metals such as calcium, magnesium, and so on. However, any other salts can likewise be employed only if it is pharmacologically acceptable.

The therapeutic composition for pancreatitis according to this invention may contain one or more species of the present compound according to the intended use and need.

The compound as the active ingredient of the therapeutic composition for pancreatitis according to this invention is a safe compound with only a very low toxic potential and can, therefore, be used for accomplishing the above-mentioned object of this invention [LD₅₀ of L-ascorbyl DL- α -tocopheryl phosphate potassium (hereinafter referred to briefly as EPC-K) is ≥ 5 g/kg p. o. (rats), ≥ 100 mg/kg i. v. (rats)].

The therapeutic composition of this invention can be administered either orally or parenterally. The dosage form in which the therapeutic composition of this invention can be provided includes solid preparations such as tablets, granules, powders, capsules, etc. and liquid preparations such as injections, all of which can be manufactured by the established pharmaceutical procedures. These dosage forms may contain a variety of additives which are commonly employed, such as excipients, binders, reabsorption promoters, buffers, surfactants, solubilizer, preservatives, emulsifiers, isotonicizing agents, stabilizers, pH control agents, etc., each in a suitable amount or proportion.

The dosage of the present compound for use as a therapeutic drug for pancreatitis is dependent on species of the compound, the patient's age, and body weight, clinical manifestations that must be controlled and dosage form, etc. but taking an injection as an example, about 1 mg to about 100 mg per adult man can be administered once a day and in the case of an oral preparation, about 10 mg to about 1,000 mg per adult man be administered a few times a day.

Unless contrary to the spirit and object of this invention, the therapeutic composition of this invention may further contain one or more other therapeutic drugs for pancreatitis and/or other kinds of pharmacologically active ingredients.

EXAMPLES

The following examples and formulation examples are further illustrative of this invention.

Example 1 Effect of the present compound on ethionine-induced severe pancreatitis

The therapeutic efficacy of the compound was tested in ethionine-induced pancreatitis which is a model of severe human pancreatitis. The efficacy evaluation was based on the degree of inhibition of the release of amylase into blood which is an indicator of pancreatitis.

Test substances:

(1) Investigational substance:

L-Ascorbyl DL- α -tocopheryl phosphate potassium (briefly, EPC-K)

141 mg/10 ml/kg, p.o.

(2) Control substances:

Distilled water 10 ml/kg, p.o.

Camostat monomethanesulfonate (Ono Pharmaceutical)

100 mg/10 ml/kg, p.o.

Animals used: Thirty female BALB/c mice weighing about 18 g as purchased from Japan SLC were used in this experiment. The mice were accommodated in an animal room controlled at $24 \pm 4^\circ\text{C}$ and $55 \pm 15\%$ R. H. and while the animals

in the ethionine-induced pancreatitis groups were given low-choline, 0.5% ethionine-supplemented food (prepared by SLC) *ad libitum*, the animals in the untreated control group were given Labo MR Stock (tradename) (Nihon Nosan Kogyo) *ad libitum*. Water was freely available for animals in the ethionine pancreatitis groups and the untreated group. The mice were deprived of food 12 hours before commencement of feeding.

Method: Each test substance was administered 12 hours after the beginning of intake of ethionine-supplemented food. Blood sampling was made 24 and 48 hours after the beginning of intake of ethionine-supplemented food and the serum amylase levels were determined.

Results: The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Effect of the compound on the elevation of serum amylase in ethionine-induced pancreatitis				
Group	No. of cases	0 Hr	24 Hr	48 Hr
Distilled water	8	14023± 1383	12368± 1853	41342± 16494
EPC-K	8	14573± 3132	12926± 2217	16257± 9763*1
Camostat monomethanesulfonate	7	13978± 1012	12628± 1542	36288± 13921
Untreated	7	13386± 1394	16376± 1558	13029± 1950*1
Each value is the mean ± S. E. All the values are in international units (mU/ml). Significantly different from the distilled water group: *1; p<0.01.				

As shown in Table 1, the serum amylase level in the distilled water group was not elevated at all till 24 hours after the beginning of intake of ethionine-supplemented food but subsequently rose, significantly as compared with the untreated group, to 41342± 16494 (mU/ml) at 48 hours. In the group treated with the compound, the serum amylase level at 48 hours after the beginning of intake of ethionine-supplemented food was 16257± 9763 (mU/ml). This level represents a significant inhibition of serum amylase elevation compared with the distilled water group, and is almost within the normal range. On the other hand, the 48-hour amylase level in the group treated with camostat monomethanesulfonate was 36288± 13921 (mU/ml), showing no inhibitory effect on amylase elevation.

It is clear from the above results that the present compound is superior to camostat monomethanesulfonate, a commercial therapeutic drug for pancreatitis, in the therapeutic effect on pancreatitis.

Formulation Example 1 Oral tablet

EPC-K	100mg
Lactose	75mg
Starch	20mg
Polyethylene glycol 6000	5mg

The above ingredients per tablet are mixed in the conventional manner to provide a tablet. Where necessary, the tablet may be sugar-coated.

Formulation Example 2 injection

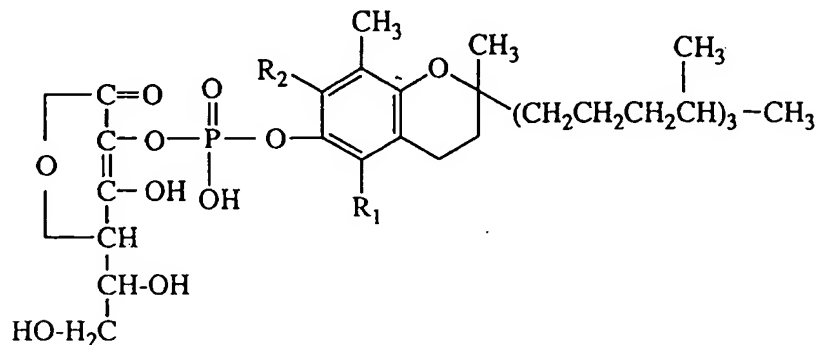
EPC-K	200mg
Mannitol	5.0 g
1N-Sodium hydroxide	q.s.
Distilled water	To make 100 ml pH6.5

The above ingredients are mixed and filtered through a bacterial filter in the routine manner. The filtrate is aseptically distributed into glass ampules, 5 ml per ampule, to provide an injection.

The pharmaceutical composition of this invention can be used with advantage in the prevention and treatment of pancreatitis.

Claims

1. A therapeutic composition for pancreatitis which comprises a phosphoric diester compound of the following formula or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof



wherein R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and each represents hydrogen or methyl.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 11 2104

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	EP-A-0 430 045 (SENJU PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD) * abstract * * page 3, line 19 - line 48 * ---	1	A61K31/665
Y	Z. MED. LAB. DIAGN., vol. 30, no. 6, 1989 pages 299-303, T.J. NEVALAINEN 'The role of phospholipase A2 in acute pancreatitis' * abstract * * page 301, paragraph 7 - page 302, paragraph 1 * ---	1	
Y	FORTSCHR. MED., vol. 101, no. 31-32, 1983 pages 1432-1436, J. FREISE 'Therapie der akuten Pankreatitis mit dem synthetischen proteasen- und Phospholipase A2-Inhibitor Gabexat mesilat' * abstract * ---	1	
Y	SCAND. J. GASTROENTEROL., vol. 20, no. 1, 1985 pages 5-12, H.T.TYKKÄ ET AL. 'A randomized double-blind study using CaNa2EDTA, a phospholipase A2 inhibitor, in the management of human acute pancreatitis' * abstract * * page 11, right column, paragraph 5 * --- -/--	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 8 December 1995	Examiner Tzschope, D
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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Application Number
EP 95 11 2104

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Y	RES. EXP. MED., vol. 184, no. 3, 1984 pages 179-189, G.ZÖCH ET AL. 'Effekt von p-Bromphenacylbromid, einem Phospholipase A-Hemmer, bei experimenteller akuter Pankreatitis der Ratte' * abstract *	1	
Y	SCAND. J. GASTROENTEROL., vol. 15, no. 5, 1980 pages 519-528, H.TYKKÄ ET AL. 'Phospholipase A2 inhibitors and their possible clinical use in the treatment of acute pancreatitis' * abstract * * page 527, right column, paragraph 2 *	1	
Y	PANCREAS, vol. 2, no. 4, 1987 pages 489-494, J.M.BRAGANZA ET AL. 'Recalcitrant pancreatitis: eventual control by antioxidants' * abstract * * page 493, right column, paragraph 2 *	1	
Y	ADV. EXP. MED. BIOL., vol. 264, 1990 pages 555-572, S. UDEN ET AL. 'Rationale for antioxidant therapy in pancreatitis and cystic fibrosis' * abstract *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 8 December 1995	Examiner Tzschoppe, D
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>Δ : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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Application Number
EP 95 11 2104

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
D,X	EP-A-0 236 120 (SENJU PHARMACEUTICAL CO. LTD.) * abstract * * page 3, line 63 - page 4, line 2 *	1	
Y	J.SOC.COSMET.CHEM., vol. 38, no. 5, 1987 pages 333-339, KAKUJI TOJO ET AL. 'Bioconversion of a provitamin to vitamins C and E in skin' * page 333 - page 334 *	1	
Y	TOXICOLOGY AND APPLIED PHARMACOLOGY, vol. 125, no. 2, 1994 pages 176-183, RONALD ANDERSON ET AL. 'Alpha-tocopherol prevents cyclosporin A-mediated activation of phospholipase A2 and inhibition of Na ⁺ , K ⁺ -adenosine triphosphatase activity in cultured hamster renal tubular cells' * abstract *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 8 December 1995	Examiner Tzschoppe, D
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EPO FORM 1501 (04/95) (P04/01)